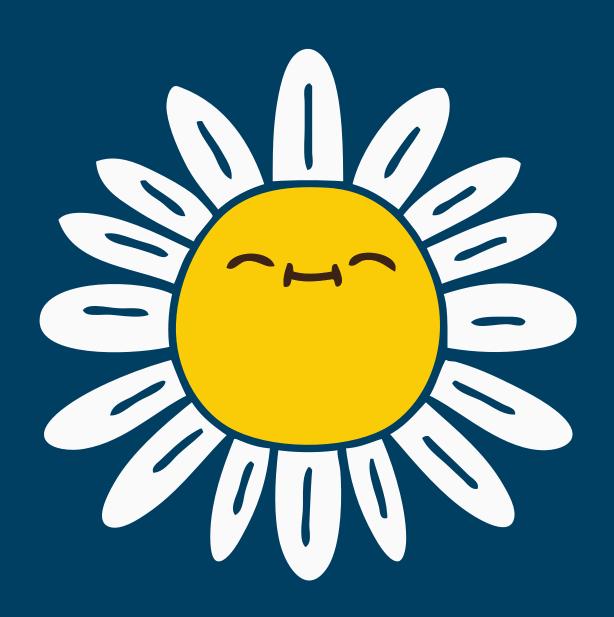
## ISB Spring 2024 Newsletter



TIME TO BLOOM

## THE THAI THAT BINDS



**ISB Network News** 



SPRING 2024
NEWSLETTER

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Special Daytona Beach 2023 Reunion Video Recap

#### **ISB NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Open

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Director of Membership

Cindy Hunt Leach, '80



## Kathy Beaird Letter from our President



Sawadee ka, saibaidee, and xin chào!

It's been some time since we've sent out a newsletter and I must thank Kathie/Kate Boslet for temporarily stepping back into her role as Director of Communications to get this done for us. There's so much to talk about. We had a great Network reunion in Daytona Beach in August. Then in January, close to 200 of us connected in Bangkok to enjoy an incredible tour of SE Asia.

DAB was a blast! The weekend started early with the class of '73 kicking off their 50th reunion on Wednesday. They had a great turnout of classmates to celebrate this milestone. We enjoyed a delicious catered Thai dinner at the hotel on Thursday evening. Friday was the official start of our ISB Network Reunion. Approximately 350 alumni joined in the fun. We enjoyed presentations by guest speakers, volunteers assembled clean birth kits, former members of the Young Internationals performed at our Friday night welcome, and we had our first ever karaoke night accompanied by our favorite DJ, KC spinning the tunes for several events. You should really feel left out if you missed my rendition of *These Boots Are Made for Walking*. We also celebrated and remembered our schoolmates and faculty members who we have lost over the years. The memorial slideshow and accompanying music are always so touching and difficult to get through without shedding a tear or two. Our welcome evening on Friday culminated with The Teen Club band jamming many of our favorite tunes from various eras of music while our alums and guests danced the night away before heading to the various party suites to continue our celebrations.

Saturday was House Games. Once again, Amos outdid himself. We started out Saturday morning in the pool with water games. After lunch we gathered to play some of the silliest games yet. A good time was had by all! Green House prevailed, taking home the trophy for 2023. Saturday night was our banquet and dancing. KC played a variety of music, and the dance floor was always crowded. I'm sure I got in my 10,000 steps just from being on the dance floor all night.

Sunday came and it's always hard to say goodbye. Thankfully, many of us stayed a day or two after the reunion just to rest. And that's what we did, spending most of the day on the beach. It was a relaxing end to a wonderful reunion. And the best part was knowing many of us venturing onto the SE Asia tour would see each other again in just a few months.

No reunion is successful without the help of our many volunteers who step in and perform so many duties that are needed to ensure the success of our events. Thank you to all who volunteered minutes, hours, and days to support the reunion in Daytona Beach.



## Kathy Beaird Letter from our President continued

I can't write about the trip overseas without taking a minute to thank Maile and Lloyd for putting the tour together. It was the trip of a lifetime for so many of those on the journey, including a good number of ISBers who were making the trip back to Bangkok for the first time since leaving there 40 or 50 years ago. There's so much to write about, but that will have to be an article for another newsletter. I have to say, many of us fell in love with Luang Prabang, Laos. Our time in Laos was my favorite part of the tour. I'll forever have memories of climbing a mountain and zip lining over lush Lao valleys. Vietnam was interesting. I enjoyed our pedicab tour in Hanoi, the day spent on a boat on Ha Long Bay, and our stay at the beautiful historic Hotel Majestic in Saigon. Several of us are hoping to go back to Laos, especially to spend more time in Luang Prabang. I already have that trip planned in my head.

As for the 2025 reunion ... Teresa is actively engaged in trying to find a location and venue that are just the right fit for us. It's getting more and more difficult to stay within the budget parameters we've set for our reunions. Hotel room prices have increased. Food and beverage costs have skyrocketed. Our reunions are not the type of happening most resorts and convention facilities want. They like the kind of money that corporate events bring in. But Teresa has a couple of good prospects she's working on. We hope to announce something before the end of May.

Meanwhile stay healthy and happy. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in 2025.

#### Kathy Beaird ISB Network President



#### **DAYTONA BEACH 2023 REUNION**

#### **Reunion Lessons Learned**

In August of 2023, we attended our ISB All-Classes Reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida. This was the second time we have held our reunion at "The World's Most Famous Beach." The reunion in 2016 was themed "Samlor Ha Roi," and the theme for our event in 2023 was "Surfing our Wai Back to Daytona Beach."



Many of us came away from the reunion having learned valuable lessons

- Our past relationships are important, and we should do our best to stay in touch and keep those
  lines of communication open. Social media has helped to rekindle our friendships; using the
  <a href="ISBNETWORK.com">ISBNETWORK.com</a> database will also help us to find old friends. So let's stay in touch.
- Time is no longer on our side. For some attendees, this was their 50+ high school reunion. For others, it may have been 30+ years since they have attended a reunion. We need to take advantage of our time and make each moment special. Unfortunately, our "Forever Friends" wall has over 350 photos and names on it. Their time has run out and we should be grateful for the opportunity we have to renew friendships and thankful for the gift of time.
- The High School cliques are gone!!! The stereotypical groups such as "jocks, nerds, brainiacs, pot heads, troublemakers, the in crowd, etc..." have been erased. No longer are we trying to impress anyone. Our ISB family welcomes everyone and the BEST part of our group is forming new bonds.

The next reunion will be held in 2025. The reunion committee has been scouting for a suitable location that fits the needs of our large group. Even though we don't know the location for the next reunion or the exact date, we should make plans to attend. Put aside money for transportation and reunion fees. Plan to attend and form new friendships and revitalize old ones.





We are all ISB Panthers.



# Class of 1973 Celebrates 50th Reunion





Panthers from the class of 1973
gathered on Wednesday, August 2,
for a private celebration. Over 50
alumni and guests attended this
special event on the rooftop of Joe's
Crab Shack. Attendees enjoyed a
variety of tasty food options from
the buffet, danced to 70s tunes,
kicked back and enjoyed a steady
evening breeze emanating from the
Atlantic Ocean.





#### Thai Dinner



For the second time, our Thursday night Thai dinner was held on property eliminating the need to transport ISBers to Thai restaurants.



Teresa Martin, our Reunion
Director, negotiated the use
of the ocean front ballroom
and patio to host our Thai
Dinner. With the assistance
of Sid Gerson who speaks
fluent Thai, a local
restaurant was contacted
and they made our fabulous
meal for this event.

## Karaoke Night











A first for an ISB reunion was the introduction of Karaoke night in the Teen Club. A huge thank you to the many performers, the teen club band, KC (our DJ), and Rao Vedurumudi for being the front man in procuring and setting up the Teen Club equipment.

## Opening Ceremonies - Friday Night!

Our Friday night opening ceremonies kicked off our weekend of fun, laughter, and friendship. We gathered upstairs outside of the Coquina Ballrooms for heavy appetizers, cash bar, parade of house flags, announcements, and entertainment by the Young Internationals.





The Teen Club musicians and singers kept the dance floor full for several hours before our group meandered back to the various party suites in the South Tower. Each of our party suites opened onto a large balcony with a clear view of the Daytona Beach nighttime skyline and the added bonus of witnessing two rocket launches. Several of our alumni even saw the sun rise from the party suites balcony.





#### House Games - Green House Wins!

Jane Ewing Ensley, Captain of the Green House, led her team to victory at the Daytona Beach house competition. The games at this reunion started at 10 AM on the fifth floor of the DAB Hilton Hotel. The small pool proved to be a challenge at first, but Amos Ewing and his trusty House Games team devised a strategy allowing two houses to compete at a time with the winners of each heat competing against each other. House fans cheered for their respective house color, and recruits to play the games were often found in the audience. The popular palm tree pool race and toilet plunger relay entertained the spectators before moving inside to complete the competition.









#### House Games - Green House Wins!

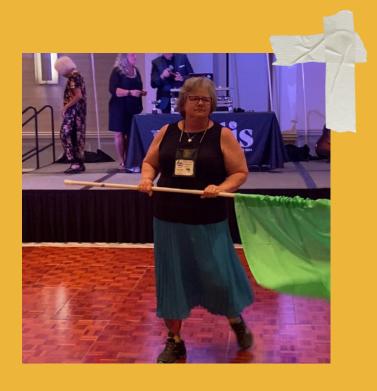
After lunch, the games continued in the main foyer outside of the Gala Ballrooms. Amos Ewing and his band of judges ran a tight ship making sure house competitors stuck to the rules and didn't cheat (the careful cheaters did not get caught ③). The participants and spectators enjoyed the creativity and zaniness of the clever house games.





During the Gala, Amos Ewing – House Games Director, announced Green House as the winners after a very tough competition. Jane Ewing wowed the audience with her "burlesque" dance as she accepted the coveted trophy.





## Saturday Night Gala



Saturday night's Gala was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance. The impeccable service provided by the staff at the Daytona Beach Hilton Resort kept the evening on track as the attendees enjoyed their dinner, celebrations, and dancing.

Two previous presidents, Mimi Wetherington and Maile McCoskrie Busby Lindley, shared the stage to provide the alumni with background information on the origins of the Network, and how the Network continued to build its membership with the help of the Internet and social media. They also presented our current president, Kathy Beaird with flowers and thanked her for her continued service to the Board of Directors and the ISB Network.

After the announcement of the House Games winner (go Green House), our favorite DJ, KC spun his tunes and several hours of dancing was enjoyed by all.



## Special Thanks

Our reunions are successful because of the dedication and hard work of our alumni. Planning a reunion takes 1-2 years and that plan begins with the selection of a location and the signing of a contract. Negotiating a reasonable food and beverage package is always a priority, as well as securing a room block rate that will not break the personal banks of our alumni. The cost of storing Shack items and equipment is also part of the reunion budget, and we must also calculate the cost of transporting everything to and from the reunion.









Special Thanks...continued!

- Team loading the truck
- Team driving the truck
- Team unloading the truck in DAB
- Team loading the truck in DAB
- Team The Shack set up
- Team Archives set up
- Team Managing and Assisting at The Shack and Archives
- Team House Games, set up, take down, and judging
- Team Shack and Archives take down
- Team Teen Club set up and take down
- Team Audio Visual needs
- Team Young Internationals
- Team Registration
- Team Volunteers
- Team Board of Directors





Our reunions work because of each of YOU! Thank you for all that you do to support the ISB Network and Reunions.





## Forever Friends









Memorials play a significant role in honoring our lost classmates and faculty members. Forever Friends was created for us to have a visual representation of those we have loved and lost. There are currently three Shoji screens containing the photos and class years of approximately 350 deceased ISB brethren. The portability of the screens and the layout allow us to continue to honor and remember our friends and celebrate their time on earth. Thank you to David Wilkerson who maintains the ISBeings site that chronicles several lists of our deceased friends

"We cannot bring the old days back, when we were all together. But the memories we made in school will live in our hearts forever."

#### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A MEMORIAL SITE FOR FACULTY, STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO WORKED AT OR ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BANGKOK THAILAND

In November of 2001 this site was conceived and created by David Wilkerson ISB Class of 1971 after his classmate Michael Daly suddenly passed away. David's vision is to memorialize faculty, staff and students of the International School of Bangkok Thailand who have departed this earth.

To access the site, please use this address: <a href="https://isbeings.org/">https://isbeings.org/</a>

ccess the site, please use this address. https://isbeings.org/

Memorial Posts on <a href="https://isbeings.org/">https://isbeings.org/</a> are listed in varying ways

Alphabetical by Last Name Faculty and Staff

- Class Years
- Class Years Unknown
- Year of Departure
- Year of Departure Unknown





If you have information about an ISB alumni and/or faculty/staff member who has passed, please contact David Wilkerson at <a href="mailto:isbeings@gmail.com">isbeings@gmail.com</a>. He will add the information to the site and the Facebook page. If any of the information currently listed on the site is incomplete, please contact David Wilkerson so he can





Search for ISBEINGS on Facebook. Submit a friend request to join this private group page.



There are ongoing fees required to maintain the ISBeings website. If you would like to contribute to the preservation of the site, you can donate to help David with the fees by clicking here: <a href="https://www.paypal.com/donate/...">https://www.paypal.com/donate/...</a>





We greatly appreciate all those keeping up with their membership and all the new members who have joined. If you are not currently a member or have let your membership lapse, please give serious consideration to joining or renewing. Currently, the dues are \$60.00 for a TWO-year membership and are tax-deductible. On January 1, 2021, we increased the dues (for the first time in 18 years) to \$60.00 for a two-year membership. Your membership dues will help us continue to provide support to ISB. We also offer a sustaining membership which allows you to enjoy a 10-year membership for \$300.00. To learn more, follow this **link** 

More information can be found on the **ISB Network website**. In addition, members receive "perks," such as a lower reunion registration fee, access to all newsletters, discounts to shop at the Shack, and special reunion surprises only offered to members.

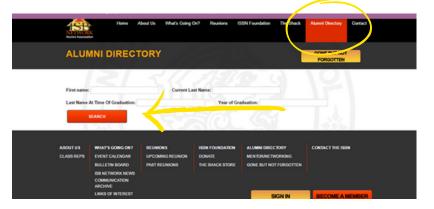


## Alumni Directory



#### Help us ensure we have your correct information

Please go to <u>ISBNetwork.com</u> and the alumni directory to make sure your contact information is current and correct. Many times, we change email addresses and/or phone numbers and forget to update the directory with our new information.



# SEARCH BY ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: Alumni Name: First name: Current Last Name: Last Name At Time Of Graduation: Boslet Alumni Graduation Year: Year of Graduation: SEARCH SEARCH

#### Special Note:

Ensure you have the years you attended ISB noted correctly - these years will be included on your Reunion Badge!

SHACK NEWS

## DEAR NETWORK MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

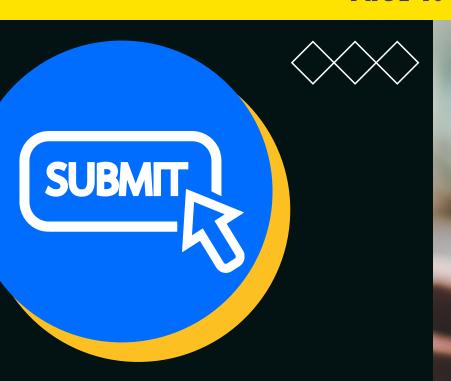
# Sorry We are CLOSED

Until further notice

The Shack <u>online store</u> is currently closed; however, <u>Erawans</u> are available to purchase through The Shack. No other online orders will be available until further notice.

In an effort to reduce our storage unit expenses, the Network hosted a fire sale at the Daytona Beach Reunion. The BOD's goal was to store ALL of our Shack and Reunion equipment into one storage facility.

We have successfully decreased the inventory, and the Shack will continue to operate at future reunions.



#### **WE NEED YOUR STORIES!**

We are looking for stories and photos for our newsletters. Here are a few ideas:

- Experiences in Thailand
- Asia Reunion 2024
- Activities in Thailand
- How you felt about living in a foreign country with so many cultural differences
- How you felt about leaving Thailand
- Stories about friendships made in Thailand and through ISB
- Reunion experiences
- and anything else!

Submit content to director.comms@isbnetwork.com



